



AETC News Clips

Luke AFB, Ariz.



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. 19-Jan-06

West Valley View, Litchfield Park, Arizona, Tuesday, January 17, 2006

Do your research before making that big purchase

Recent letters to the editor have expressed concern by the purchasers of new homes in the West Valley that sales representatives failed to inform the homebuyers that the school district in which the home was being purchased had a problem with overcrowding.

Similar complaints have come up in the past. Several years ago, when Avondale was debating whether or not to allow fishing in the city's water treatment lakes in Crystal Gardens, many Crystal Gardens residents told the city manager that their sales representatives promised them that fishing was allowed, while other residents insisted just as vehemently that sales people told them that fishing was prohibited.

Noise at Luke Air Force Base has also been a source of consternation for homebuyers in the area, many of whom complained that their sales representative failed to mention that very loud F-16 jets fly over the West Valley. Over the years, others have filed similar grievances about freeway noise, dairy smells and the unsightliness, dust and noise of gravel-mining operations.

There's an old saying that's so old it's most frequently stated in Latin, a language that has been dead for centuries: *caveat emptor*. In English it means "Let the buyer beware."

A home is probably the most expensive thing most of us will buy during our lifetimes. Remarkably, some people do far more research before purchasing less-expensive items such as cars, computers and large household appliances than they do before purchasing a home. Not only should potential homebuyers research the reputation of the builder and the quality of the company's product, they also have a responsibility to themselves to research the area in which they are looking to buy. Information about the quality of schools, traffic, smells, noise and future plans for development in the area are readily available from a number of sources. The Internet, public libraries, city halls, school district administration offices and local newspapers are great sources of information for people who want to learn about the community in which they would like to buy a home.

A good rule of thumb is this: Never depend on a sales person to tell you everything you need to know about the item you're planning to buy, whether it's a new computer or a new home. Sellers have different motivations than buyers.

Ultimately, if a person who moves into a new area and then finds that the city, schools, roads or just the community in general do not live up to his expectations, he has no one to blame but himself for failure to perform due diligence.

The Arizona Republic

PAGE:

DATE: 19-Jan-06



AETC News Clips

Sheppard AFB, Texas



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **19 Jan 06**

Thornberry pushing for UAV center

Training program would be good fit for Sheppard, congressman says

By Bill Straub/Scripps Washington Bureau
January 19, 2006, Page 1A

The Pentagon plans to press hundreds of unmanned aerial vehicles into service in coming years, so Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Clarendon, said he is pushing to establish a UAV maintenance training center at Sheppard Air Force Base.

"It's one of the mission areas that seems to us to make sense for Sheppard because we're already an Air Force center of excellence for aircraft maintenance training," Thornberry said. "It's not much a stretch to expand from manned to unmanned."

The Pentagon has spent billions of dollars since 1964 developing unmanned drones as a means to protect pilots from unfriendly fire. They have been used primarily for reconnaissance and surveillance, although more and more they're being used as weapons.

Thornberry said he has discussed the idea with Air Force brass since first raising the issue during an appearance before the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission on July 11, 2005, but he doesn't think anything will happen soon.

By 2010, the Department of Defense hopes to increase its UAV inventory to about 350, increasing that to more than a thousand in future years. From 1991 to 1999, the Pentagon invested about \$3 billion in UAV projects. That is projected to increase to \$10 billion through 2010, according to the latest Department of Defense Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Roadmap 2002-2027 report.

During the July presentation, Thornberry noted that UAVs are "growing in number and importance and assuming a variety of missions from surveillance to weapons delivery."

Neither BRAC nor the Pentagon have made any public move toward creating the UAV center, even though the unmanned planes are a growing part of the Air Force fleet.

During the 2005 base closing deliberations, a data analysis book compiled by BRAC senior analyst Ray S. Carroll Jr. indicated that some thought was being given to the creation of a center of UAV maintenance training at Indian Springs Auxiliary Field near Las Vegas, home of the Predator, perhaps the best known UAV.

That idea was discarded, according to the report, because "UAV training was too specialized to consider joint training efficient at this time."

The most prominent UAVs are the Global Hawk by Northrop Grumman, the Predator by General Atomics and the Cypher made by Sikorsky. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld strongly supports the UAV program and has pushed UAVs as one way to transform the military. As a result, the Pentagon has made UAV weapon systems a priority.

Times Record News

PAGE: Internet

DATE: 19 Jan 06



AETC News Clips

Sheppard AFB, Texas



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **19 Jan 06**

Sheppard was hit hard by the last round of BRAC closings, losing about 2,300 jobs as the result of an overhaul of the military medical system. In addition, about 500 maintenance and flight-training jobs originally targeted for Sheppard will instead head for Elgin Air Force Base in Florida. A UAV center of excellence would compensate for the loss.

"We're continuing to pursue it," Thornberry said. "I talked with the Air Force folks about it. I don't know if we have any big decision or anything at this point, but it's one area we want to explore. The military is relying more and more on UAVs around the world, and we're going to have to consider starting a center of excellence sometime. It's a good fit."

Times Record News
PAGE: Internet
DATE: 19 Jan 06



AETC News Clips

Tyndall AFB, Fla.



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. 19 Jan 06

Air Force crimps fuel depot plan Lynn Haven, FSU-PC interest in property dampened by lease proposal

By S. Brady Calhoun
News Herald Writer 747-5075 / bcalhoun@pcnh.com

U.S. Rep. Allen Boyd, the Lynn Haven City Commission, and Florida State University-Panama City administrators all agree on what should be done with an abandoned U.S. Air Force fuel depot.

They want the 200-acre spread turned into an FSU-PC coastal research center and an extension of the branch campus.

But the Air Force, which once seemed to be in accord with their plan, has added a wrinkle. Boyd, D-Monticello, Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton and officials with Lynn Haven and FSU-PC had a workshop concerning the depot at Lynn Haven City Hall on Wednesday.

The Air Force is no longer interested in giving the property to either Lynn Haven or FSU-PC. The service would rather lease it through a new program called Enhanced Use Leasing, said Brian Stahl, a civil engineer at Tyndall Air Force Base.

The idea was met with heavy resistance Wednesday from Boyd, and representatives of FSU-PC and Lynn Haven.

The U.S. Navy built the fuel depot during World War II. The Air Force took custody of the parcel in the 1970s and abandoned it in 1993. The waterfront spread is contaminated with herbicide, arsenic and mercury.

Stahl said the environmental cleanup on the site should be complete within the next two years.

While other branches of the military have used leasing for various properties, the Air Force is just now starting its own version of the program. Under the program, neither Lynn Haven nor FSU-PC would own the property, but they, and any other suitable business or developer, could build on the grounds with the approval of the Air Force.

"We're in Phase Zero," Stahl said.

The Air Force's Real Property Agency will now take about two years to examine the site, determine the value of the property and decide who should be allowed to build there.

The Air Force could charge users of the site or it could ask for in-kind compensation, Stahl said. The military also could do any number of things with the property, including building its own recreational facility, he said.

"We strive to be good neighbors with the local community," Stahl said.

The examination process should be wrapped up at about the same time as the environmental cleanup is complete, Egginton said.

"We're all excited about getting the ball rolling and excited about having it come to fruition in a way you envision it," he said.

The News Herald

PAGE: Emailed

DATE: 19 Jan 06



AETC News Clips

Tyndall AFB, Fla.



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. 19 Jan 06

Boyd, FSU-PC and several Lynn Haven commissioners said they are against the leasing idea and feel the rules have been changed midway through the process.

"In 2001, everybody seemed to be on the same page," Boyd said. Now, more than four years later, the Air Force has gone in a different direction, he added.

"How do we get back on track?" Boyd asked.

Stahl said the leasing program came to the Air Force after 2001.

Boyd said Lynn Haven commissioners and employees have labored in good faith with the understanding that at some point the property would be declared surplus and given to the city. The city had planned to then lease it to FSU-PC but would not charge the college anything for use of the property.

Commissioner Frances Wittkopf wants a Rails-to-Trails Conservancy park built there, which she says could coexist with the FSU-PC extension.

Lynn Haven City Manager John Lynch said the city is concerned that the Air Force will allow industrial businesses that would bring down real estate values in the area.

"I don't think anyone is interested in a lease," Lynch said after the meeting.

The plans for the property have changed because of a change in command at various levels in the Air Force, Lynch said, calling it "institutional memory loss."

Ken Shaw, acting dean of FSU-PC, said after the meeting that he had consulted the university's central command in Tallahassee and they are not interested in entering into a lease agreement with the Air Force even if it entailed a 50-year deal.

"We support giving the property to Lynn Haven," Shaw said.

The News Herald

PAGE: Emailed

DATE: 19 Jan 06